High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)

UNITED STATES ARMY

MISSION
Provides light, airborne, and air assault divisions and early-entry/forces with Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) fire-power capability to conduct counterfire, suppression of enemy air defenses, and precision indirect fires to destroy material and personnel targets.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS
The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) supports the Army Vision by providing a rapidly deployable, lethal fire-support system for early entry forces. HIMARS is mounted on a family of medium tactical vehicles (FMTV) five-ton truck and can be transported by the C-130 aircraft. The lightweight chassis allows for faster road movement, lower operating costs, and requires 30 percent fewer strategic airlifts (via C-5 or C-17) to transport a battery than the current tracked M270 MLRS launcher unit. The HIMARS can fire the suite of MLRS family of munitions, including all Army tactical missile system variants. The HIMARS carries either a rocket or a missile pod, has a self-loading capability, and is manned by a three-man crew.

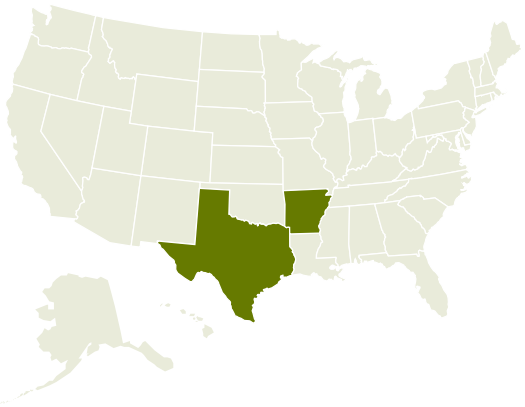
FOREIGN COUNTERPART
There are several foreign wheeled multiple rocket launch systems on the international market; none, however, have the mobility and munitions suite capabilities of HIMARS.

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES
None

PROGRAM STATUS
In FY00, Congress provided additional funding to accelerate HIMARS development. Additional procurement funding is programmed in FY03 and FY04 to accelerate HIMARS procurement in order to field two HIMARS Battalions in FY05.
Four HIMARS prototypes have been built as part of the Rapid Force Projection Initiative (RFPI) Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration (ACTD). Three of the prototype HIMARS remain with the XVIII Airborne Corps for training and further evaluation during the RFPI ACTD's two-year extended user evaluation and also provide the unit a limited "go-to-war" capability. The HIMARS prototypes have received both a live-fire safety release and C-130 air certification. Lessons learned in the RFPI ACTD's field experiment and early user experiment will be used in the HIMARS engineering and manufacturing development (EMD) program. RFPI extended user evaluation began FY99 and is ongoing. HIMARS EMD phase began 1QFY00.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES
FY01–05 Conduct developmental testing/operational testing.
1QFY03 Low-rate initial production decision.
2QFY06 Battalion-level first unit equipped.

PRIME CONTRACTORS
Lockheed Martin (Dallas, TX; Camden, AR)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors